

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 1, 2005, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 43 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 43 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Power of Attorney and Revocation of Prior Powers

Applicants note the filing herewith of a Power of Attorney to the undersigned attorney's firm under Customer Number 24247. Entry of the Power of Attorney is respectfully solicited.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed herein on January 29, 2003, and that no copy of the PTO-1449 equivalent provided by Applicants' predecessor firm was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 equivalent be made of record herein. It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 equivalent evidencing consideration of the cited references be returned to the undersigned attorney. Applicants enclose herewith a copy of the PTO-1449 equivalent and date-stamped postcard evidencing receipt of same by the Office.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,348,411

Claims 1 through 43 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 43 of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,411. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence to the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 43 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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